The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Una de multis Face Nuptiali
Digna—— Hor.

From *Saturday June* 10. to *Tuesday June* 13. 1710.

From my own Apartment, June 12.

THERE are certain Occasions of Life which give propitious Omens of the future good Conduct of it, as well as others which explain our present inward State according to our Behaviour in them. Of the latter Sort are Funerals, of the former, Weddings. The Manner of our Carriage when we lose a Friend, shows very much our Temper, in the Humility of our Words and Actions, and a general Sense of our destitute Condition, which runs thro' all our Deportment. This gives a solemn Testimony of the generous Affection we bore our Friends, when we seem to disrelish every Thing now we can no more enjoy them, or see them partake in our Enjoyments. It is very proper and human to put our selves as it were in their Livery after their Decease, and wear a Habit unsuitable to Prosperity, while those we loved and honoured are mouldring in the Grave. As this is laudable on the sorrowful Side; so on the other, Incidents of Success may no less justly be represented and acknowledged in our outward Figure and Carriage. Of all such Occasions, that great Change of a Single Life into Marriage is the most important, as it is the Source of all Relations, and from whence all other Friendship and Commerce do principally arise. The general Intent of both Sexes is to dispose of themselves happily and honourably in this State; and as all the good Qualities we have are exerted to make our Way into it, so the best Appearance, with Regard to their Minds, their Persons, and their Fortunes, at the first Entrance into it, is a Due to each other in the married Pair, as well as a Compliment to the rest of the World. It was an Instruction of a wise Lawgiver, That unmarried Women should wear such loose Habits, which, in the flowing of their Garb, should incite their Beholders to a Desire of their Persons; and that the ordinary Motion of their Bodies might display the Figure and Shape of their Limbs in such a Manner, as at once to preserve the strictest Decency, and raise the warmest Inclinations.

This was the Oeconomy of the Legislator for the Increase of People, and at the same Time for the Preservation of the Genial Bed. She who was the Admiration of all who beheld her while unmarried, was to bid adieu to the Pleasure of shining in the Eyes of many, as soon as she took upon her the wedded Condition. However, there was a Festival of Life allowed the New-married, a Sort of intermediate State between Celibacy and Matrimony, which continued certain Days. During that Time, Entertainments, Equipages, and other Circumstances of Rejoicing, were encouraged, and they were permitted to exceed the common Mode of Living, that the Bride and Bridegroom might learn from such Freedoms or Conversation to run into a general Conduct to each other, made out of their past and future State, so to temper the Cares of the Man and the Wife with the Gaieties of the Lover and the Mistress.

In those wise Ages the Dignity of Life was kept up, and on the Celebration of such Solemnities, there were no impertinent Whispers and senseless Interpretations put upon the unaffected Cheerfulness or accidental Seriousness of the Bride; but Men turn'd their Thoughts upon the general Reflexions upon what Issue might probably be expected from such a Couple in the succeeding Course of their Life, and felicitated them accordingly upon such Prospects.

I must confess, I cannot from any ancient Manuscripts, Sculptures, or Medals, deduce the Rise of our celebrated Custom of throwing the Stocking; but have a faint Memory of an Account a Friend gave me of an original Picture in the Palace of *Aldobrandini* in *Rome*. This seems to show a Sense of this Affair very different from what is usual among us. It is a *Grecian* Wedding, and the Figures represented are a Person offering Sacrifice, a beautiful Damsel dancing, and another playing on the Harp. The Bride is placed in her Bed, the Bridegroom sits at the Feet of it, with an Aspect which intimates, his Thoughts were not only entertained with the Joys with which he was surrounded, but also with a noble Gratitude, and divine Pleasure in the Offering, which was then made to the Gods to invoke their Influence on his new Condition. There appears in the Face of the Woman a Mixture of Fear, Hope, and Modesty; in the Bridegroom, a well-governed Rapture. A sensible inward Spirits Grief which discovers it self the more by forbearing Tears and Complaints, you may observe also the highest Joy is too big for Utterance, the Tongue being of all the Organs the least capable of expressing such a Circumstance. The Nuptial Torch, the Bower, the Marriage Song, are all Particulars which we meet with in the Allusions of the ancient Writers; and in every one of them something is to be observed, which denotes their Industry to aggravate and adorn this Occasion above all others.

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With us all Order and Decency in this Point is perverted, by the insipid Mirth of certain Animals we usually call Wags. These are a Species of all among Men the most insupportable. One cannot without some Reflexion say, whether their flat Mirth provokes us more to Pity or to Scorn; but if one considers with how great Affectation they utter their frigid Conceits, Commiseration immediately changes it self into Contempt.

A Wag is the last Order even of Pretenders to Wit and good Humour. He has generally his Mind prepared to receive some Occasion of Merriment, but is of himself too empty to draw any out of his own Set of Thoughts, and therefore laughs at the next Thing he meets, not because it is ridiculous, but because he is under a Necessity of laughing. A Wag is one that never in its Life saw a beautiful Object, but sees, what it does see, in the most low and most inconsiderable Light it can be placed. There is a certain Ability necessary to behold what is amiable and worthy of our Approbation, which little Minds want, and attempt to hide by a general Disregard to every Thing they behold above what they are able to relish. Hence it is, that a Wag in an Assembly is ever guessing, how well such a Lady slept last Night, and how much such a young Fellow is pleas'd with himself. The Wag's Gaiety consists in a certain professed ill Breeding, as if it were an Excuse for committing a Fault, That a Man knows he does so. Tho' all publick Places are full of Persons of this Order, yet, because I will not allow Impertinence and Affectation to get the better of native Innocence and Simplicity of Manners, I have, in Spite of such little Disturbers of publick Entertainments, perswaded my Brother *Tranquillus* and his Wife my Sister *Jenny*, in Favour of *Mr. Wilks*, to be at the Play to Morrow Evening.

They, as they have so much good Sense as to act naturally, without Regard to the Observation of others, will not, I hope, be discompos'd if any of the Fry of Wags should take upon them to make themselves merry upon the Occasion of their coming, as they intend, in their Wedding Cloathes. My Brother is a plain, worthy, and honest Man, and as it is natural for Men of that Turn to be mightily taken with sprightly and airy Women, my Sister has a Vivacity which may perhaps give Hopes to Impertinents, but will be esteemed the Effect of Innocence among wise Men. They design to sit with me in the Box which the House have been so complaisant to offer me, whenever I think fit to come thither in my publick Character.

I do not in the least doubt, but the true Figure of Conjugal Affection will appear in their Looks and Gestures. My Sister does not affect to be gorgeous in her Dress, and thinks the Happiness of a Wife is more visible in a chearful Look than a gay Apparel. It is a hard Task to speak of Persons so nearly related to one with Decency, but I may say, all who shall be at the Play will allow him to have the Mien of a worthy *English* Gentleman, her, that of a notable and deserving Wife.

Advertisements.

MEn's and Women's Morning-Gowns, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callico's (being the Goods of Persons that failed) which are to be disposed of at the Olive-Tree and Bible, are now to be sold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf in the Pall-Mall, over-against the Horse at Charing-Cross; with a fresh Parcel of very fine Razors, the Price being set in each Gown.

ROBERT More, Writing-Master, who for several Years succeeded Col. Ayres in St. Paul's Church-yard, is removed to his former House and Business at the Golden Pen in Castle-street near the Mews; where Youth may board. Also the Writing-Master's Assistant, Pr. 1s. 6d. and a Striking Copy-Book, Pr. 1s. are there sold by the Author.

AN House, at the Corner of Ivy-Lane in Newgate-street, lately the Crown Tavern, is to be let. 'Tis in good Repair, and convenient for most Trades. Inquire at the Bull's Head in Ivy-Lane.

*** Whereas on Saturday last an Advertisement brought by an unknown Person was inserted in this Paper, That the Tryal of Dr. Henry Sacheverell would be published this Day; and that at the same Time would be published, An Impartial Account of what passed most remarkable in the last Session of Parliament, relating to the Case of Dr. Henry Sacheverell, and therefore might be bound up with the Trial of the said Doctor, printed for Jacob Tonson at Gray's-Inn-Gate: This is to give Notice, That no such Book is printed or to be published by Jacob Tonson; but his Name, without his Knowledge, is put to a spurious Pamphlet, which contains only an imperfect Extract of the Journals of the Houses of Lords and Commons relating to the said Dr. Henry Sacheverell; and that the Tryal of the said Dr. Henry Sacheverell only, without the said Extract, is printed for Jacob Tonson, and will be published on Thursday next. Note, That the said Impartial Account, &c. is entred in the Register-Book of the Company of Stationers, according to the late Act, and signed by Abel Roper as the Proprietor and Publisher of the said Book, as by that Register appears.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Thursday the 15th Instant, at Loyd's Coffee-house in Lombard-street, at Six in the Afternoon, 50 Chests (only one Chest in a Lot) of new Red Florence Wine, very good, and just landed, v z. 40 Flasks in each Chest, now in a Cellar near Garraud's Hall-Inn in Billingsgate, next Bread-street; and 6 Pipes, and 9 Hhds. of White Wine, for Draught, in a Vault under Mr. Belitha's Building in Billiter-lane in Leadenhall-street. All to be seen in their respective Places where they lie, this Day and to Morrow from Seven to One, and from Two to Seven, and all Thursday till the Hour of Sale. To be sold by T. Tomkins, Broker, in Crutched-Fryars.

POlicies are now filling up at the Assurance Office in Avemary-Lane, near Ludgate; for raising a Bank for private Families and Widows, by Subscriptions on the Lives of 3000 Persons, and for making a Dividends every Quarter among the Claimants; the Charge being only 1 l. 2 s. 6 d. for the Policy, and 2 s. 6 d. a Quarter, as by the Proposals to be had gratis, at Whitehall Coffee-house, Burton's in King-street, St. James's, Bagury's at the Seven Dials, Hyde's by the Sessions-house, Southwark, Baker's in Exchange-alley, and at the Office. Where also Enquiry is made for a sober ingenious Person, fit for Business. His Salary will be about 26 l. a Year.

FOR the Benefit of Signior Francisco, A Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick by the best Performers, at the Great Room in Peter's-Court, the lower End of the Pavement-stones in St. Martin's-Lane, to Morrow being the 14th Instant. Tickets 5 s. Seven a Clock precisely.

SToughton's great Cordial Elixir: Now famous throughout Europe, for the Stomach and Blood, as is described in the Bills with it, prepared only by him, Apothecary, at the Unicorn in Southwark, for forth 19 Years. It makes the best Purl in Beer or Ale, Purl Royal in Sack, and the bitter Draught in Mum, being the best and most pleasant Bitter in the World; now drank by most Gentlemen in their Wine instead of any other, Worthwood being so hot and drying, thickens the Blood, dulls the Breath, and weakens the Sight. This Elixir is well known to recover and restore a Weaken'd Stomach, or lost Appetite (beyond any Thing that ever was taken) occasioned by hard Drinking or Sickness, &c. and certainly carries off the Effects of bad Wine. Sold at the Author's House, and at many Booksellers, Shop-keepers, and Coffee-houses, in and about the City of London; also at some one such Place in most Cities and great Towns in Europe, at 1 s. a Bottle. The Seal on each has Richard Stoughton cut round it, or else 'tis a Counterfeit.

LOst or mislaid, 2 Tickets in the Lottery of 1500000 l. No. 14[illegible]19 and 14[illegible]12. If any Person finds the same, and brings them to Mr. Tho. Bridges in Nicholas-Lane, London, shall have a Guinea Reward, they being of no Use to any but the Owner.

MRs. Turner's Catalogue of Goods and Plate will be drawn on Monday next, being the 19th Instant, at the Three Kings in Bow-street, Bloomsbury. There being a small Quantity of Tickets to dispose of, any Person may be furnished at Mrs. Turner's against the Three Kings aforesaid.

THE Sixpenny Sale of Plate and other Goods, at Mr. Dorrell's, Cap Maker, in High Holborn, Three Doors from the Cole-yard, will be drawn on Thursday the 22d Instant, at the Court-House in Bloomsbury Market. There being a small Quantity of Tickets to dispose of, any Person may be furnished at Mrs. Dorrell's, as above-mentioned.

I Tho. Adin, Weaver, living in King's-Head-yard, Shoreditch, declare, That I had a Cough and Consumption, and received a perfect Cure by the Blessing of God, and the Use of the Medicines of Mr. J. Moore, Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar in Abchurch-lane, London: And I desire, for the Good of others under the same Distemper, that this Cure may be made publick. April 17. 1710. Witness my Hand, T. Adin.

THE nicest Spanish Blacking for Gentlemen's Shoes ever invented or used, making them look like new, neither clouding the Hands or Stockings, nor having the noisom Stink of Size. All that use it admire it. Sold only at Mr. Hannam's, a Toyshop at the Three Angels near Foster-lane in Cheap-side, at 1 s. 6 d. a Pot.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertisements are taken in.